

## **BUSINESS TAX / TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**March 27, 2006**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Bill Blackburn, Bill Garing, Linda Hussey, Ty Munger, John Resha, Sue Stewart, Steve Whitescarver, Bob Wikstrom

**STAFF:** Karen Bambans, Don Cairns, Erika Vandenbrande, Sandy Yeager

Welcome by Bill Blackburn, Chair, and review of tonight's agenda.

There was discussion by the group about the results of the voting on weighting the criteria. There were changes from the previous weighting exercise but generally the weighting did not change substantially. "Reduce congestion/maintain or improve LOS" remains the highest criteria rating. The rating for "Reduce VMT" showed the most significant change, going from 6.38 to 4.4 this time. The group decided to accept the new criteria rating for this selection process.

Don and Erika then presented information to illustrate an approach to measuring the "comprehensive cost/benefit feasibility" criteria. The NE 90 Street Bridge project was used as a capacity project example and the Redmond Employer Performance Incentive Program was used as a demand management example. After discussion, the group determined that the goal of the Committee is to allocate funding to planned projects based on the business tax criteria rather than to assess the cost to benefit ratio for a particular project. For comparative purposes, it was agreed that this approach may be useful relative to assessment of the cost/benefit criteria. Staff also agreed to look into the possibility of using actual volumes as opposed to theoretical capacity added by an improvement.

Staff provided the group with the Project Description worksheets used during the last selection process. The Committee asked staff to revise the worksheets to describe the project elements in the consistent with the business tax criteria rather than by Mobility, Community, Financial, and Environmental.

It was decided to not have a full group BT/TI meeting in April to allow time for staff to meet with a small sub-committee to go over the list of candidate projects for submittal. This also allows staff time to prepare all the worksheet information for candidate projects

in advance of the May meeting. It was also discussed that both staff and the BT/TI committee would like to complete the recommendations to Council by mid to late June. This may require 1-2 additional meeting of the BT/TI committee between May 22 and June 19.

#### ***NEXT STEPS:***

A small group of Ty Munger or Jim Stanton, Bill Blackburn and John Resha was formed to work with staff to recommend candidate projects and programs that should be brought to the full BT/TI Committee. One suggestion was that this group look at unfunded and/or underfunded projects in the TIP. The small group will meet over the next two months, followed by a regular Committee meeting in May. The group will then schedule two meetings close together, one to discuss project selection and the second to determine what recommendations to make to the City Council regarding the future of the BT/TI tax.

There are several areas for future discussion to address the BT/TI Committee's input about the future of the tax:

- How do Committee members feel about making the tax permanent?
- Discussion about rate increases.
- What suggestions do members have about the type of outreach to assess the opinion of the business community.
- Does the Mayor have any questions of the Committee?

The next meeting will be Monday, May 22. The agenda is to present the candidate projects to the BT/TI committee prior to voting on each one.

The meeting was then adjourned before 7:00 p.m.